

1998 Crop Production

The 1998 Crop Season began with below normal temperatures and rainy weather, but by early July the growing season turned into one of record heat and minimal precipitation. From early July through August the state experienced seven consecutive weeks of above normal temperatures near the century mark, accompanied by intermittent thunderstorms that only provided a few tenths of precipitation. At such critical stages of development many cereal grains and other field crops began to show signs of heat stress. As harvest season got underway the affects of excessive heat were reflected in lower than expected yields and poorer quality. Although ideal growing conditions were not present, Idaho experienced record winter wheat yields.

The first few weeks of April brought cool temperatures and rainy weather throughout most of the state, except in Northern areas where seeding of small grains and row crops progressed ahead of last year and the five year average after two consecutive springs with excess moisture. Regions of South-Central and Eastern Idaho experienced lingering winter conditions. A small percentage of sugarbeet fields were replanted due to frost damage, and potato plantings lagged behind last year and the five year average. The beginning of May brought warmer temperatures and a halt to the rain, allowing for substantial progress in spring crop plantings. Potatoes, dry peas, lentils, oats, and corn plantings gained momentum and by mid May were well ahead of last year and the five year average.

A return of cool temperatures and heavy rains by late May slowed the remaining spring crop plantings. The heavy rain experienced in Eastern and Southcentral areas flooded low-lying acres of sugarbeet, potato, and corn fields causing them to be replanted while three consecutive weeks of rain caused flooding along the Snake, Boise, and Weiser Rivers in Southwestern Idaho, damaging low-lying cropland. By mid-June the rain subsided, but cool temperatures persisted retarding crop growth of alfalfa, corn, and dry beans. In late June, Eastern and Southcentral areas experienced a severe hail storm accompanied by strong winds that damaged potatoes, corn, and small grains. Most of the state's first cutting of alfalfa was rain damaged.

July ushered in warm, dry weather for the first time since early May allowing substantial progress with cherry and alfalfa harvest. The second week of July brought the first report of late

blight in Treasure Valley potato fields for the 1998 crop year. Northern and Southcentral areas also began reporting the presence of barley stripe rust in grain fields. By the end of July, hot temperatures had producers scrambling to keep up with irrigation to heat stressed crops.

August provided little relief from the scorching heat as temperatures continued to hover near the century mark. Little precipitation fell during the month allowing for a majority of small grain harvest to be completed. Heat stress on small grains resulted in light weight barley. Hop and sugarbeet fields in Canyon county were affected by powdery mildew, while hop fields in Boundary county were also confirmed with the disease. Incidences of late potato blight increased in Eastern Idaho as the harvest season progressed.

The continued effects of a cool, wet spring coupled with a hot, dry summer became evident again in September when smaller than expected tubers were harvested in Eastern Idaho fields. By mid September winter wheat harvest was complete and spring wheat, barley and oat harvest was ahead of normal. Passing thunderstorms damaged late harvest crops in Northern areas and third cutting alfalfa in Southern regions. By months end early sugarbeet digs had begun and potato harvest was a quarter complete.

Ideal growing conditions throughout Southern Idaho continued through mid October when the state experienced its first killing frost. It was the first time since late June the state had experienced below normal temperatures. By late October potato and onion harvest was near completion. Sugarbeet harvest was complete by late November and corn for grain harvest continued into December.

The preliminary value of production of all Idaho crops in the estimating program, (excluding sugarbeets), for 1998 totaled 1.47 billion dollars. This is a decrease from the 1.77 billion dollars in 1997. Idaho's wheat crop was valued at 221 million dollars, down 38 percent from 1997. Potatoes, valued at 544.6 million dollars, were down 14 percent, and barley, valued at 139.3 million dollars, was down 17 percent. The value of the State's fruit crops was down 6 percent to 21.4 million dollars.

1998 Idaho Annual Crop Summary

Crop	Year	Acres		Yield Per Acre	Unit	Production	Price Per Unit ^{1/}	Value of Production ^{1/}
		Planted	Harvested					
		<i>Thousands</i>			<i>Bu.</i>	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
WHEAT, ALL	1996	1,620	1,560	76.4	"	119,200	3.96	473,088
	1997	1,500	1,430	79.6	"	113,830	3.12	355,150
	1998	1,350	1,280	80.0	"	102,410	2.25	220,952
WHEAT, WINTER	1996	900	860	80	"	68,800	3.99	274,512
	1997	910	860	80	"	68,800	3.12	214,656
	1998	820	770	82	"	63,140	2.10	132,594
WHEAT, WINTER WHITE	1996	--	--	--	"	58,480	--	--
	1997	--	--	--	"	59,860	--	--
	1998	--	--	--	"	54,930	--	--
WHEAT, SPRING (EXCLUDING DURUM)	1996	720	700	72	"	50,400	3.94	198,576
	1997	590	570	79	"	45,030	3.12	140,494
	1998	530	510	77	"	39,270	2.25	88,358
WHEAT, SPRING WHITE (EXCLUDING DURUM)	1996	--	--	--	"	40,320	--	--
	1997	--	--	--	"	31,520	--	--
	1998	--	--	--	"	19,630	--	--
BARLEY	1996	750	730	73	"	53,290	3.14	167,331
	1997	770	750	79	"	59,250	2.82	167,085
	1998	780	760	78	"	59,280	2.35	139,308
OATS	1996	60	25	75	"	1,875	2.00	3,750
	1997	80	21	75	"	1,575	1.64	2,583
	1998	80	30	75	"	2,250	1.15	2,588
CORN, ALL	1996	110	108	--	"	--	--	--
	1997	125	123	--	"	--	--	--
	1998	145	142	--	"	--	--	--
CORN, GRAIN	1996	--	40	135	"	5,400	3.25	17,550
	1997	--	43	155	"	6,665	3.03	20,195
	1998	--	52	150	"	7,800	2.50	19,500
CORN, SILAGE	1996	--	68	24.0	<i>Ton</i>	1,632	--	--
	1997	--	80	25.5	"	2,040	--	--
	1998	--	90	25.5	"	2,295	--	--
HAY, ALL	1996	--	1,280	3.72	"	4,760	96.00	450,240
	1997	--	1,300	3.64	"	4,730	105.00	483,110
	1998	--	1,430	3.88	"	5,549	84.00	460,295
HAY, ALFALFA	1996	--	1,000	4.20	"	4,200	97.00	407,400
	1997	--	1,000	4.10	"	4,100	106.00	434,600
	1998	--	1,130	4.30	"	4,859	85.50	415,445
HAY, OTHER	1996	--	280	2.00	"	560	76.50	42,840
	1997	--	300	2.10	"	630	77.00	48,510
	1998	--	300	2.30	"	690	65.00	44,850
SUGARBEETS	1996	187	184	24.8	"	4,563	46.10	210,354
	1997	198	197	26.4	"	5,210	40.60	211,526
	1998	204	203	27.1	"	5,501	2/ 2/	2/
DRY EDIBLE BEANS (COMMERCIAL)	1996	95	93	20.5	<i>Cwt.</i>	1,907	24.00	45,768
	1997	100	98	22.0	"	2,156	20.80	44,845
	1998	105	103	20.5	"	2,112	17.80	37,594
POTATOES, ALL	1996	415	413	346	"	142,800	3.85	549,780
	1997	400	398	353	"	140,314	4.50	631,413
	1998	415	413	338	"	139,650	3.90	544,635
POTATOES 10 S.W. COUNTIES	1996	28	28	425	"	11,900	--	--
	1997	27	27	470	"	12,690	--	--
	1998	28	28	450	"	12,600	--	--
POTATOES OTHER COUNTIES	1996	387	385	340	"	130,900	--	--
	1997	373	371	344	"	127,624	--	--
	1998	387	385	330	"	127,050	--	--
LENTILS	1996	56	55	8.00	"	440	17.20	7,568
	1997	67	66	14.00	"	924	13.00	12,012
	1998	58	56	11.50	"	644	10.50	6,762

1998 Idaho Annual Crop Summary

Crop	Year	Acres		Yield Per Acre	Unit	Production	Price Per Unit ^{1/}	Value of Production ^{1/}
		Planted	Harvested					
		<i>Thousands</i>				<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AUSTRIAN WINTER PEAS	1996	8.0	7.0	14	<i>Cwt.</i>	98	12.90	1,264
	1997	7.5	7.2	15	"	108	10.70	1,156
	1998	8.0	7.0	14	"	98	8.00	784
DRY EDIBLE PEAS	1996	61	59	10	"	590	11.50	6,785
	1997	75	74	21	"	1,554	7.80	12,121
	1998	69	67	17	"	1,139	6.10	6,948
WRINKLED SEED PEAS	1996	--	--	--	"	316	17.30	5,467
	1997	--	--	--	"	286	16.10	4,605
	1998	--	--	--	"	248	14.40	3,571
ONIONS ^{3/}	1996	8.8	8.6	650	"	5,590	10.20	46,757
	1997	8.4	8.2	690	"	5,658	10.20	42,412
	1998	8.2	8.0	580	"	4,640	14.40	53,424
HOPS	1996	--	4.0	1,400	<i>Lb.</i>	5,596	1.49	8,338
	1997	--	3.9	1,417	"	5,484	1.41	7,733
	1998	--	3.9	1,159	"	4,529	1.52	6,885
MINT, PEPPERMINT	1996	--	22.0	88	"	1,936	12.80	24,781
	1997	--	24.0	90	"	2,160	11.20	24,192
	1998	--	21.0	95	"	1,995	10.00	19,950
MINT, SPEARMINT	1996	--	1.4	100	"	140	13.10	1,834
	1997	--	1.7	100	"	170	12.40	2,108
	1998	--	2.0	103	"	206	11.20	2,307
APPLES ^{4/} (COMMERCIAL CROP)	1996	--	--	--	"	190,000	0.136	25,860
	1997	--	--	--	"	110,000	0.139	15,290
	1998	--	--	--	"	140,000	0.093	13,050
PEACHES ^{4/}	1996	--	--	--	"	8,200	0.470	3,855
	1997	--	--	--	"	7,100	0.574	4,075
	1998	--	--	--	"	8,700	0.436	3,791
PRUNES & PLUMS ^{4/}	1996	--	--	--	<i>Ton</i>	4.7	596.00	2,802
	1997	--	--	--	"	2.7	517.00	1,395
	1998	--	--	--	"	4.3	553.00	2,377
CHERRIES, SWEET ^{4/}	1996	--	--	--	"	2.2	1,250.00	2,681
	1997	--	--	--	"	1.6	1,290.00	2,063
	1998	--	--	--	"	2.1	1,070.00	2,207
SWEET CORN FOR PROCESSING	1996	17.7	17.5	9.22	"	161.4	76.00	12,263
	1997	15.2	14.3	9.50	"	135.9	78.50	10,664
	1998	16.8	16.1	9.00	"	144.9	76.20	11,041

1/ Marketing year price. 1998 is preliminary. 2/ 1998 sugarbeet price and value not yet determined. 3/ Production includes some quantities of storage crop onions harvested but not sold because of shrinkage and waste. 4/ Data shown are for utilized production which is the amount of fruit sold plus quantities used at home or held in storage.

1997 and 1998 Idaho Annual Crop Summary Totals

Type of Crop	Acres Harvested		Value of Production	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
Field Crops (including sugarbeets)	4,493.8	4,517.9	1,979,834	--
Field Crops (excluding sugarbeets)	4,296.8	4,314.9	1,768,308	1,472,079
Fruit Crops	--	--	22,823	21,425
Vegetable Crops	22.5	24.1	53,076	64,465
Total, All (including sugarbeets)	4,516.3	4,542.0	2,055,733	--
Total, All (excluding sugarbeets)	4,319.3	4,339.0	1,844,207	1,557,969

1998 United States Crop Summary

Crop	Year	Acres		Yield Per Acre	Unit	Production	Price Per Unit ^{1/}	Value of Production ^{1/}
		Planted	Harvested					
		<i>Thousands</i>			<i>Bu.</i>	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
WHEAT, WINTER	1996	51,445	39,574	37.1	"	1,469,618	4.33	6,396,217
	1997	47,985	41,340	44.6	"	1,845,528	3.23	5,948,655
	1998	46,449	40,126	46.9	"	1,880,605	2.50	4,774,374
WHEAT, SPRING (EXCLUDING DURUM)	1996	20,030	19,689	35.1	"	691,680	4.20	2,844,028
	1997	19,117	18,323	29.9	"	548,155	3.53	1,915,589
	1998	15,617	15,148	34.9	"	528,709	3.05	1,642,470
BARLEY	1996	7,094	6,707	58.5	"	392,433	2.74	1,080,940
	1997	6,706	6,198	58.1	"	359,878	2.38	861,620
	1998	6,340	5,867	60.1	"	352,445	1.95	663,773
OATS	1996	4,638	2,655	57.7	"	153,245	1.96	313,920
	1997	5,068	2,813	59.5	"	167,246	1.60	273,284
	1998	4,902	2,765	60.4	"	167,122	1.10	188,295
CORN, GRAIN ^{2/}	1996	79,229	72,644	127.1	"	9,232,557	2.71	25,149,013
	1997	79,537	72,671	126.7	"	9,206,832	2.43	22,351,507
	1998	80,187	72,604	134.4	"	9,761,085	1.95	19,092,590
CORN, SILAGE	1996	--	5,607	15.4	<i>Ton</i>	86,581	--	--
	1997	--	6,054	16.1	"	97,192	--	--
	1998	--	5,919	16.0	"	94,525	--	--
HAY, ALL	1996	--	61,169	2.45	"	149,779	95.80	12,726,992
	1997	--	61,084	2.50	"	152,536	100.00	13,249,825
	1998	--	60,016	2.52	"	151,338	87.00	11,720,420
SUGARBEETS	1996	1,368.4	1,323.3	20.2	"	26,680	45.40	1,211,001
	1997	1,459.3	1,428.3	20.9	"	29,886	38.80	1,160,029
	1998	1,497.9	1,451.6	22.5	"	32,660	3/	3/
DRY EDIBLE BEANS (COMMERCIAL)	1996	1,839.0	1,750.7	15.94	<i>Cwt.</i>	27,912	23.50	652,240
	1997	1,869.8	1,758.8	16.70	"	29,370	19.30	576,658
	1998	2,010.1	1,913.9	16.11	"	30,828	19.80	604,888
POTATOES, ALL	1996	1,454.7	1,425.9	350	"	499,254	4.91	2,425,263
	1997	1,383.5	1,353.6	345	"	467,091	5.64	2,621,733
	1998	1,423.4	1,394.4	343	"	477,754	5.24	2,492,654
POTATOES, FALL	1996	1,270.4	1,248.2	364	"	454,388	--	--
	1997	1,210.1	1,185.1	357	"	423,190	--	--
	1998	1,241.2	1,220.0	356	"	434,368	--	--
LENTILS	1996	147.2	140.0	9.52	"	1,333	17.10	22,758
	1997	193.0	183.0	13.15	"	2,406	13.00	31,151
	1998	162.0	158.5	12.23	"	1,938	10.30	19,938
AUSTRIAN WINTER PEAS	1996	8.6	7.3	14.11	"	103	12.90	1,329
	1997	8.7	7.6	15.13	"	115	10.70	1,231
	1998	9.0	7.4	14.05	"	104	8.00	832
DRY EDIBLE PEAS	1996	215.9	204.9	13.04	"	2,671	11.10	29,638
	1997	303.6	281.6	20.43	"	5,752	7.40	42,658
	1998	323.4	309.1	19.20	"	5,934	5.90	34,972
WRINKLED SEED PEAS	1996	--	--	--	"	548	16.20	8,877
	1997	--	--	--	"	682	15.80	10,743
	1998	--	--	--	"	674	14.10	9,535
ONIONS ^{4/}	1996	175.4	166.2	386	"	64,106	10.50	604,789
	1997	175.1	165.9	414	"	68,769	11.90	728,772
	1998	170.9	164.1	397	"	65,131	14.30	830,976
APPLES ^{5/}	1996	--	--	--	<i>Lb.</i>	10,330,000	0.159	1,641,462
	1997	--	--	--	"	10,254,300	0.154	1,575,403
	1998	--	--	--	"	10,597,200	0.116	1,226,380
PEACHES, ^{5/}	1996	--	--	--	"	2,043,800	0.191	389,894
	1997	--	--	--	"	2,508,400	0.177	444,137
	1998	--	--	--	"	2,350,900	0.188	442,939
PRUNES & PLUMS (4 STATES) ^{5/ 6/}	1996	--	--	--	<i>Ton</i>	18.7	442.00	8,272
	1997	--	--	--	"	23.7	273.00	6,481
	1998	--	--	--	"	24.8	311.00	7,707
CHERRIES, SWEET ^{5/}	1996	--	--	--	"	151.7	1,470.00	223,022
	1997	--	--	--	"	223.5	1,250.00	278,511
	1998	--	--	--	"	206.6	1,090.00	225,626

1/ Marketing year price. Averages computed by weighting State prices by estimated State sales and therefore may differ from the computed averages. 1998 is preliminary. 2/ Planted acreage is all corn planted (excluding sweet corn). 3/ Not available. 4/ Production includes some quantities of storage crop onions harvested but not sold because of shrinkage and waste. 5/ Data shown are for utilized production which is the amount of fruit sold plus quantities used at home or held in storage. 6/ Includes only Idaho, Washington, Michigan and Oregon.